GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department - Diversion of 118.725 Ha. of forest land in (3) Forest Divisions i.e. Guntur, Giddalur and Nellore for construction of New B.G. Railway line between Nadikudi to Srikalahasti, in favour of South Central Railway, Secunderabad – Final (Stage-II) approval accorded.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SECTION-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.73 **Dated.13.12.2021**

Read the following:-

1) From the PCCF & HoFF, AP, Lr.Rc.No.18177/2015-FCA-1, Dt.23.05.2016.
2) State Govt.Letter No.3193/Section-II /2014, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dt.13.06.2016.
3) From the GoI, MoEF&CC, R.O, Chennai, F.No.APA013/2016-CHN/1479, dt:20.07.2016.
4) State Govt.Lr.No.3193/Section.II/2014, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dt:16.06.2021.
5) From GoI, MoEF& C.C, IRO, Vijayawada, Lr.F.No.4-APA013/2016-CHN/47, dt.30.07.2021.

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ORDER:

In the letter first read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, has submitted a proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 118.725 Ha. of forest land in (3) Forest Divisions i.e. Guntur, Giddalur and Nellore for construction of New B.G. Railway line between Nadikudi to Srikalahasti, in favour of South Central Railway, Secunderabad and requested to forward the same to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests, & Climate Change, Regional Office, Chennai for obtaining necessary approval in the matter.

2. In the letter 2nd read above, the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur, was sent to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, Chennai for their approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

3. In the letter 3rd read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, Chennai have accorded in-principle (Stage-I) approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act,1980, for the proposal, subject to compliance of certain conditions stipulated therein. Accordingly, in the letter 4th read above, the State Government furnished compliance report on the conditions stipulated by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, Chennai while according in-principle (Stage-I) approval.

4. In the letter 5th read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada have accorded Final (Stage-II) approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 118.725 Ha. of forest land in (3) Forest Divisions i.e. Guntur, Giddalur and Nellore for construction of New B.G. Railway line between Nadikudi to Srikalahasti, in favour of South Central Railway, Secunderabad, subject to certain conditions as stipulated therein.

5. After careful examination of the proposal, the Government hereby accord permission to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, for diversion of 118.725 Ha. of forest land in (3) Forest Divisions i.e. Guntur, Giddalur and Nellore for construction of New B.G. Railway line between Nadikudi to Srikalahasti, in favour of South Central Railway, Secunderabad, subject to the following conditions:-

i. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged;

ii. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department over 139.69 ha of degraded forest land identified in Compt.No.432 & 439 in Inimerla PF/RF of Kanigiri Range and 101.0415 ha degraded FL in Compt.No. 452 in Punugodu RF of Kanigiri, from the amount which has already been realized from the User Agency;

(Contd.P-2)

iii. Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from User Agency;

iv. The six (06) number of water tanks constructed on either side of the proposed track to provide water to the wild animals so as to prevent them from crossing across the railway track in search of water, shall be maintained properly by the State Forest Department at the project cost;

v. The User Agency shall have qualified forest/agricultural/ horticultural graduates on their rolls to monitor the plantations being carried out by the railways;

vi. The State Government shall form a committee consisting of members from forest department to implement the green initiatives recommended under the 1% money proposed to be allotted from the project cost;

vii. The User Agency shall construct the ROB's and other underpasses as mentioned in the Project estimate for the safe passage of the wild animals;

viii. In Inimerla RF waterholes and solar powered borewell structures may be provided. Likewise in Punugoda RF also, as suggested by the APCCF(Central) during site inspection, solar powered borewell structures to be provided at the cost of User Agency.

ix. Depending on the feasibility, the State Forest Department shall try to translocate the trees present in the proposed area to the nearby forest area at the cost of the User Agency;

x. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;

xi. No station/halt should be commissioned in the forest area. The railways should look for alternative technical options;

xii. Pre-fabricated, eco-friendly structures should be used to the maximum possible extent to reduce the extent of disturbance in the habitat;

xiii. The debris / earth excavated during the track laying work should be disposed off outside the forest area and reused suitably so that the natural drainage of the area is not blocked. However, materials to be used for construction of new tracks should be brought from outsides the forest area;

xiv. Minimal disturbance should be ensured by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible;

xv. The felling of trees may be restricted to the extent only where it is necessary to remove;

xvi. Night time usage of the track may be disallowed. Work shall be taken up only during day time;

xvii. In case of any steep slope arising out along the alignment, the slope should be reduced to facilitate movement of wild animals, especially heavy bodied and slow moving animals;

xviii. Appropriate soil conservation measures to be taken to reduce silt load in the run-off to avoid negative impact on the water bodies. The User Agency will provide retaining walls, breast wall and drainage as per requirement to make the slope stable;

xix. Traffic on the proposed track should be controlled to minimize the chances of wildlife mortalities;

(Contd.P-3)

xx. Speed limit for the train shall be decided by the railway authorities after consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) as per terrain and presence of wildlife. Moreover, railway authorities shall abide by any conditions prescribed by the CWLW on speed limit as per the orders of the Honorable Supreme Court of India;

xxi. The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to the all Acts, Rules, Regulation and Guidelines of the Ministry, for the time being in force, as applicable to the railway line projects;

xxii. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **118.725 ha.** User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;

xxiii. The Forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency or Department or person without prior approval of the Central Government.

xxiv. The User Agency shall submit the annual self compliance report in respect of the above conditions to the Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada and to the State Government;

xxv. All other conditions proposed by the State Government at the time of submission of the proposal to the Central Government shall be complied with by the User Agency.

xxvi. Any other condition that the Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area shall be complied by the user agency;

xxvii. In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the User Agency is liable for penal action as per the provisions made in rules / guidelines issued under FCA, 1980.

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, shall take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)
VIJAY KUMAR GSRKR
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.

Copy to:

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central)
Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Regional Office, 1st and 2nd Floors,
Handloom Export promotion Council Building
34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600034.

The Inspector General of Forests (Central)
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada,
Green House Complex, Gopal Reddy Road,
Vijayawada-520010.

The Deputy Chief Project Manager,
World Class Station Project, Near Lekha Bhavan,
South Central Railway, Secunderabad.

SF/SC (Computer No.1424841)

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

N. Jagadeeswari
SECTION OFFICER